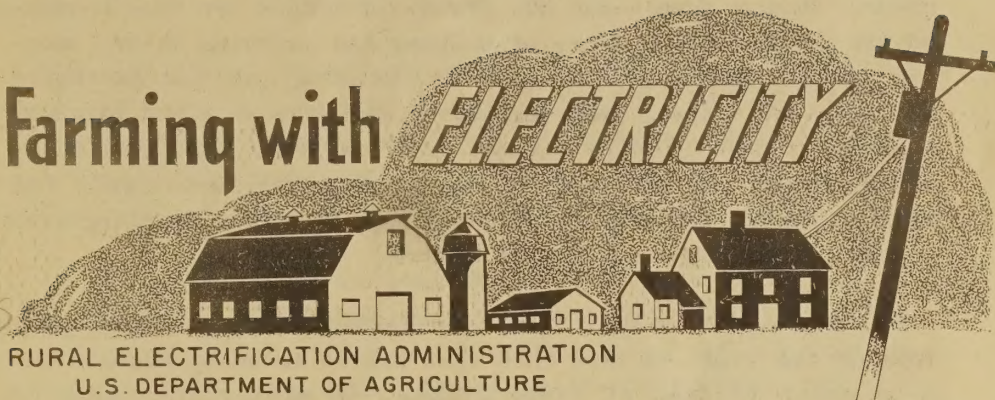


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Reserve

Farming with *ELECTRICITY*



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARMING WITH ELECTRICITY

To get satisfaction out of farming as a "Way of Life" you must make a go of the business of farming and you must also make sure that living on the farm will not mean eternal drudgery.

Electricity on the farm takes farm living out of the horse-and-buggy age into some of the comforts of this twentieth century. And it may spell the difference between success and failure in farming as a business.

Veterans of World War II who want to go into farming will have a much better chance than did those of World War I to find a farm which has electricity or is in line to get it soon.

In 1919, electrified farms were almost as rare as hens' teeth. Even ten years ago only 10 percent of farms had electric highline service. But today it's more than 40 percent and inside of five years it will very likely be around 80 percent, thanks largely to positive action by Congress in establishing the Electrification Administration and providing the money, on a loan basis, for building rural power lines.

JAN 18 1945

If you and your wife grew up in a town, you may not realize what it means to live on a farm without electric light and power. Many a farm woman has grown old before her time because of the burden and drudgery of pumping and carrying water, keeping the oil lamps in working order, bending over the washboard for hours at a time, sweating over a sad-iron in a hot kitchen, fighting a daily battle against dirt and dust just with dust-cloth, broom and mop, and trying to keep the family well fed with no controlled heat for cooking and with food spoiling even in the spring house during the summer.

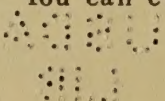
If you grew up on a farm, you probably have a pretty good idea of the time and hard work that can be saved by using electric power instead of elbow grease, no matter what type of farming you may want to go into. Lighting of outbuildings and farm yard makes morning and evening chores easier and lessens fire danger. Electric tools in the farm shop help to keep equipment in shape. A pressure water system takes care of livestock watering and may save the kitchen garden. A small portable motor does all sorts of odd jobs in a jiffy. But electricity is not only a time and labor saver, it makes it possible to do a lot of farm jobs better, to save money and to boost farm income.

In truck farming, for instance, electric hot beds make it easier to grow your own seedlings and to extend and advance the growing season. Irrigation with an electric pump can save your crop in a dry spell.

In poultry farming you can do more with less labor if you have an automatic water supply, electric brooders, controlled hen house lighting, an electric feed grinder and mixer, automatic water warmers. An electric egg cooler, cleaning brush and candler will mean quality eggs at a better price.

As a dairy farmer you will find that the electric milking machine, cream separator, feed grinder, and automatic water supply enable you to take care of a larger herd with less human labor. And you can market a higher quality milk or cream by the use of electric sterilizing and cooling equipment.

If you are a stock farmer, you can save young pigs and lambs in cold weather with an electric brooder. You can save time and money with an electric feed grinder and an automatic water supply. You can cure better quality hay by



using a mechanical hay dryer, regardless of weather conditions. An electric hay hoist is a great help and an electric blower or conveyor makes the job much easier.

For the diversified farm you cannot get a more versatile or more efficient hired hand than electricity. And as a part-time farmer you will find that electricity makes country living more pleasant and gives the entire family more time for working the small acreage intensively with some leisure for recreation.

Apart from making farming easier, rural electrification opens new opportunities for part-time and full-time employment in rural communities. It makes possible small rural processing and service industries which depend on low-cost power, such as custom feed mills, cheese factories, or electrical repair shops. With the rapid extension of rural electrification and the growing mechanization of farming, there is a need in many rural neighborhoods for handymen who can save the farmer much of the bother of taking his appliances to town for repairs. After this war, starting to farm without electricity will be like going to bat with two strikes against you. Hundreds of thousands of low-income farmers have already learned that they were mistaken in thinking they could not afford to use electricity. They have found that they cannot afford not to use it when they can get it.

When you look for a farm, remember this. If you cannot get an electrical farm, find out whether the one you are considering has a good chance of getting hooked up soon to a rural power line. And if the farm is not wired, don't forget to include in your budget, an adequate allowance for a good wiring job.

Getting electricity to a farm is not as expensive to the farmer as it used to be. About 800 farmer-owned electric cooperatives and rural public power districts, by means of REA financing, have brought electricity to about a million farms in 45 states. They reach into more than half of the countries of the nation. They make no special charge for bringing the electric line to a farmstead if it is already in the neighborhood or if enough farmers in the neighborhood get together to make the building of a longer line worthwhile. Most of the commercial rural power companies have now dropped the requirement of large cash contributions from farmers who want electric service.

To find out what the chances are of getting electricity to a particular farm, don't just take the owner's or salesman's word for it. See the county agricultural agent or, if an REA co-op operates in the area, go to the office and talk to the manager. He can show you on his large map just how close the power line is to the farm and he will explain how and when it will get there.

Getting power from an REA co-op has various advantages. By paying a small membership fee you become a member and joint owner of the co-op; have an equal vote with all other members in its control and in the election of its directors; may apply to the co-op for a loan to finance farm wiring and plumbing, or to purchase some electrical appliances and equipment if you cannot pay spot cash for all. Every REA co-op is incorporated, and being a member does not make you liable in any way for its debts and liabilities. Apart from the small membership fee, you run absolutely no financial risk by joining an REA co-op.

The cost of electric service in rural areas varies, but in general is much lower than after the war. The rate schedule of REA co-ops is calculated to encourage farmers to use electricity productively. The more kilowatt-hours a farmer uses the less he has to pay for each kilowatt-hour. A family-type farm making good use of its electric service is likely to pay on the average about 5 cents per kwh. But consider what a kwh, guided by human brain and hand, can do on the farm.

One kwh can run a water pump for 3 hours, cool 10 gallons of milk, operate a quarter hp motor at full load, for 3 hours, raise 2 chicks in a brooder, clean and grade 100 bushels of small grain, light the farmstead for one evening, milk 30 cows, heat 5 gallons of water, cut 1 ton ensilage and lift it into a 30 foot silo, grind 200 bushels of grain, light poultry house for 6 days, shear 50 sheep, run a tool grinder for 4 hours, saw 1 cord of wood, separate cream from 2,000 pounds of milk, or shell 30 bushels of corn.

In the farm home, one kwh can do 1 large weekly wash, iron for 2 hours, run refrigerator for a day, run radio for 15 hours, operate vacuum cleaner for 3 hours, run sewing machine for 8 hours, tell time for 20 days, supply 1000 gallons of water from shallow well.

Modern farming means farming with electricity.